

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 5, after line 10, please insert the following new paragraph:

Figs. 4A and 4B depict a WDM transmitter system and WDM receiver system with error correction coding techniques employed on higher data rate and lower data rate signals with different coding gains, according to another embodiment of the present invention.

On page 11, at line 13, please insert the following new paragraph:

Figs. 4A and 4B illustrate an exemplary WDM transmitter system and its corresponding WDM receiver system with error correction coding techniques employed on higher data rate and lower data rate signals. As explained previously, the coding gains on the lower data rate signals are lower than the coding gains on the higher data rate signals.

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